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L1: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Aug 11, 1998

US-PAT-NO: 5794207

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5794207 A

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TITLE: Method and apparatus for a cryptographically assisted commercial network system designed to facilitate buyer-driven conditional purchase offers

DATE-ISSUED: August 11, 1998

## INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Walker; Jay S.	Ridgefield	CT		
Schneier; Bruce	Oak Park	IL		
Jorasch; James A.	Stamford	CT		

## ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE	CODE
Walker Asset Management Limited Partnership	Stamford	CT				02

APPL-NO: 08/ 707660   [\[PALM\]](#)

DATE FILED: September 4, 1996

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 15/20

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/23; 705/26, 380/49, 380/23, 380/25

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/1; 705/26, 705/77, 705/80

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 395/226, 395/227, 395/237, 395/238, 395/239, 395/244, 380/23, 380/24, 380/25, 380/49, 705/26, 705/27, 705/37, 705/38, 705/39, 705/44, 705/1, 705/5, 705/6

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4247759</u>	January 1981	Yuris et al.	235/381
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4449186</u>	May 1984	Kelly et al.	395/205
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4553222</u>	November 1985	Kurland et al.	395/215
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4789928</u>	December 1988	Fujisaki	364/401

<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4799156</u>	January 1989	Shavit et al.	395/226
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5021953</u>	June 1991	Webber et al.	364/407
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5168446</u>	December 1992	Wiseman	395/237
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5191613</u>	March 1993	Graziano et al.	380/25
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5557518</u>	September 1996	Rosen	364/408

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Raymond T. Nimmer, "Electronic Contracting: Legal Issues," 14 J. Marshall J. Computer & Info. L. 211 (1996).  
American Law Institute, Draft-Uniform Commercial Code Revised Article 2 (Sales), Parts 2, 3, and 7, pp. 1-15, Jan. 4, 1996, printed from <http://www.kentlaw.edu/ulc/uniform/uccart2/chapt2/ucc2c237.html>.  
Richard E. Speidel & Lee A. Schott, "Impact of Electronic Contracting on Contract Formation Under Revised UCC Article 2, Sales," C878 ALI-ABA 335, Dec. 9, 1993.  
Jeffrey B. Ritter, "Scope of the Uniform Commercial Code: Computer Contracting Cases and Electronic Commercial Practices," 45 Bus. Law. 2533 (Aug. 1990).  
Laura Del Rosso, "Marketel Says it Plans to Launch Air Fare 'Auction' in June," Travel Weekly, Apr. 29, 1991.  
Jeff Pelline, "Travelers Bidding on Airline Tickets; SF Firm Offers Chance for Cut-rate Fares," San Francisco Chronicle, Section A4, Aug. 19, 1991.  
Michael Schrage, "An Experiment in Economic Theory; Labs Testing Real Markets," The Record Section B1, Nov. 26, 1989.  
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Robert Kuttner, "Computers May Turn the World into One Big Commodities Pit," Business Week, Sep. 11, 1989.  
"Web Ventures Presents BookIt!" press release printed from <http://www.webventures.com/bookit/> (Web Ventures World Wide Web site) on Dec. 2, 1996.

ART-UNIT: 362

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Tarcza; Thomas H.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Laufer; Pinchus M.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Morgan &amp; Finnegan LLP Brandt; Jeffrey L.

## ABSTRACT:

The present invention is a method and apparatus for effectuating bilateral buyer-driven commerce. The present invention allows prospective buyers of goods and services to communicate a binding purchase offer globally to potential sellers, for sellers conveniently to search for relevant buyer purchase offers, and for sellers potentially to bind a buyer to a contract based on the buyer's purchase offer. In a preferred embodiment, the apparatus of the present invention includes a controller which receives binding purchase offers from prospective buyers. The controller makes purchase offers available globally to potential sellers. Potential sellers then have the option to accept a purchase offer and thus bind the corresponding buyer to a contract. The method and apparatus of the present invention have applications on the Internet as well as conventional communications systems such as

voice telephony.

44 Claims, 20 Drawing figures

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L2: Entry 1 of 2

File: USPT

Aug 18, 1998

US-PAT-NO: 5797127

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5797127 A

TITLE: Method, apparatus, and program for pricing, selling, and exercising options to purchase airline tickets

DATE-ISSUED: August 18, 1998

## INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Walker; Jay S.	Ridgefield	CT		
Case; T. Scott	Darien	CT		
Jorasch; James A.	Stamford	CT		
Sparico; Thomas M.	Riverside	CT		

## ASSIGNEE-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	TYPE	CODE
Walker Asset Management Limited Partnership	Stamford	CT				02

APPL-NO: 08/ 775591   [PALM]

DATE FILED: December 31, 1996

INT-CL: [06] G06 F 17/60

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/5; 705/37

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/5; 705/37

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/5, 705/37

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4766539</u>	August 1988	Fox	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4885685</u>	December 1989	Wolfberg et al.	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5203620</u>	April 1993	McLennan	312/334.46
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5483444</u>	January 1996	Heintzeman et al.	364/401

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

M2 Presswire, "Economic Research Service", Sep. 25, 1996.

Randall Bloomquist, The Washington Post, Conference of A Consumer Electronics Salesman, Aug. 28, 1996, p. R05.

D. K. Piot, The Christian Science Monitor, "Bad News For Travelers", Nov. 17, 1980, p. 3.

Risk Management Agency Research and Evaluation Division Pilot Programs, Oct. 15, 1996, <http://www.act.fcic.usda.gov/research/pilots.html>.

Croprevue Coverage and Income Protection,  
<http://www.agribiz.com/fbFiles/readings/IPFCIC.html>.

ART-UNIT: 271

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Cosimano; Edward R.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Bainbridge; Barton L.

ATTY-AGENT-FIRM: Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto Brandt; Jeffrey L.

## ABSTRACT:

An apparatus, method, and program for determining a price of an option to purchase an airline ticket, and for facilitating the sale and exercise of those options. By purchasing an option, a customer can lock in a specified airfare without tying up his money and without risking the loss of the ticket price if his travel plans change. Pricing of the options may be based on departure location criteria, destination location criteria, and travel criteria.

28 Claims, 6 Drawing figures

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<u>L3</u>	6064981.pn.	2	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	5797127.pn.	2	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	5794207.pn.	2	<u>L1</u>